

Figs. 1-2. *Mymar schwanni* Girault, ♀: (1) Hind wing, (2) Distal portion of hind wing, enlarged.

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23. *NEOXANTHOENCYRTUS* GEN. NOV. FOR INDIAN SPECIES OF *SCELIOENCYRTUS* GIRAULT (HYMENOPTERA: ENCYRTIDAE)

(With two text-figures)

Neoxanthoencyrtus gen. nov.

Girault (1915) proposed a new genus *Scelioencyrtus* for the species *S. nigriclavus*, *S. tricolor* and *S. keatsi*. He (1916) synonymized *Scelioencyrtus* with *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead. Later, Timberlake (1920), Gahan & Fagan (1923), Mercet (1928), Peck (1963) accepted

Girault (1916) in considering *Scelioencyrtus* Girault as synonym of *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead. Recently, Compere *et al.* (1960) revalidated the genus *Scelioencyrtus* Girault and described *mymaricoides* under it. However, they said "if no mistake was made by Timberlake in synonymizing *Scelioencyrtus*, it may be de-

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sirable to erect a new genus for *mymaricoi-des*'. Shafee *et al.* (1973) tentatively accepted Compere *et al.* (1960) and described *S. indicus* under *Scelioencyrtus*. The characters proposed by Girault (1915) for the type species of the genus *Scelioencyrtus* i.e. "fore wing densely and finely setose, marginal fringe longer than

usual, a fifth the greatest wing width" apply well to the genus *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead (fig. 1). Therefore, we follow Girault (1916), Timberlake (1920), Gahan & Fagan (1923), Mercet (1928) and Peck (1963) in regarding *Scelioencyrtus* Girault as synonym of *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead and a new genus *Neo-*

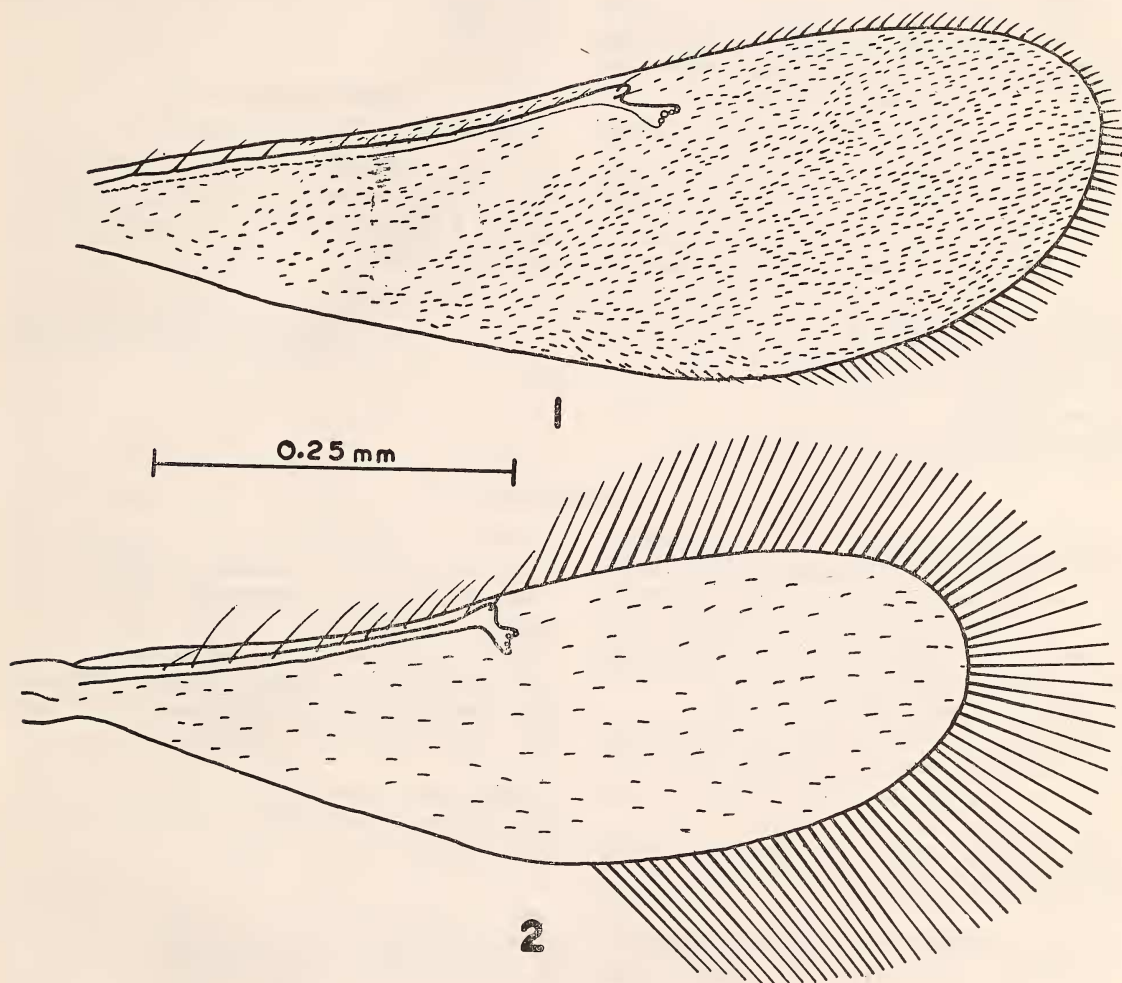


Fig. 1. *Xanthoencyrtus qadrii* Shafee *et al.*, ♀; Fore wing.
Fig. 2. *Neoxanthoencyrtus indicus* (Shafee *et al.*), ♀; Fore wing.

xanthoencyrtus is proposed for *S. mymaricoides* Compere *et al.* and *S. indicus* Shafee *et al.*

Type species: *Scelioencyrtus mymaricoides* Compere *et al.*

Neoxanthoencyrtus gen. nov. differs from *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead in the following key characters:

- 1. Marginal fringe of fore wings short, one-fifth or less the greatest wing width; wings finely setose; marginal vein longer than wide; fore wings with a speculum (fig. 1).....
..... *Xanthoencyrtus* Ashmead
- Marginal fringe of fore wings long, more than one-half the greatest wing width; wings sparsely and indistinctly setose; marginal vein punctiform; fore wings without speculum (fig. 2; Compere *et al.* 1960, fig. 8) ... *Neoxanthoencyrtus* gen. nov.

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Neoxanthoencyrtus mymaricoides (Compere *et al.*) Comb. nov.

Scelioencyrtus mymaricoides Compere *et al.*, 1960, *Proc. natn. Inst. Sci. India*, 26 (B): 46.

Neoxanthoencyrtus indicus (Shafee *et al.*) Comb. nov. (Fig. 2)

Scelioencyrtus indicus Shafee *et al.*, 1973, *Alig. Musl. Univ. Publ. (Zool. Ser.) Indian Ins. Typ.*, 10: 33.

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24. *SIMPLICIA CAENEUSALIS* WLK. (NOCTUIDAE) AS A PEST OF DRY PALM LEAVES USED IN THATCHED SHEDS IN TAMIL NADU

Recently a peculiar situation of pest incidence was noticed on thatched sheds made of dry coconut and palmyra leaves at Gudiyatham (Tamil Nadu). About 50 huts located in the river bank were severely attacked. The incidence was noticed from November 1976